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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/554,912

10/31/2005

Hiroyuki Fukui

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SUGHRUE-265550  
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20037-3213

EXAMINER

JONES, MARCUS D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/10/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/554,912	<b>Applicant(s)</b> FUKUI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> MARCUS D. JONES	<b>Art Unit</b> 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 August 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

The amendment filed on 7 August 2009 in response to the previous Final Office Action (7 May 2009) is acknowledged and has been entered.

Claims 1-13 are currently pending.

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. **Claims 1-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinoshita et al. (Japanese Patent Application 6-105943) (hereinafter Kinoshita), JP 2001-054612 (hereinafter JP '612) and further in view of JP 2002-200243 (hereinafter JP '243) (Rejection based on machine translation)**

In reference to claims 1, 2 and 3, Kinoshita discloses: A gaming machine, comprising: a plurality of rotatable reels, each having an outer periphery on which a plurality of symbols are provided (pg 9, par 11-12, *The slot machine is equipped with three reels, with which two or more symbols were expressed to the outer circumferential surface and the reel display aperture*); and further comprising: a first light source, disposed inside the reels to emit visible light; and a second light source, disposed outside the reels to emit ultraviolet light (pg 14, par 27 and 29, *white lamp and ultraviolet ray lamp, can also be provided not only inside the cabinet but inside each reel*).

In a related invention, JP '612 also teaches two kinds of patterns, one visible when ultraviolet light is on and one when ultraviolet light is turned off, one symbol is superimposed over the other. JP '612 also teaches that the symbols may be superimposed during a regular bonus game (see Figure 3 and par 16).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kinoshita in view of JP '612 to include the bonus game that uses ultraviolet symbols as a means to make the game more visually appealing to a player.

Kinoshita and JP '612 disclose the invention substantially as claimed except for a plurality of observation windows. JP '243 teaches a first and second image display device for which two-dimensional plane pictures are displayed. Both the stereoscopic and plane pictures piled up mutually can be displayed on the front of the picture transmission window (par 26-27).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kinoshita and JP '612 in view of JP '243 to use multiple displays that display the different symbols that are visible with different types of light.

In reference to claim 4, Kinoshita, JP '612 and JP '243 disclose the invention substantially as claimed. JP '243 further teaches a mirror, which provides a reflected image of the symbols (par 22).

In reference to claim 5, Kinoshita, JP '612 and JP '243 disclose the invention substantially as claimed. JP '243 further teaches a mirror position behind a display

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window (par 22). JP '243 also teaches the mirror maybe a half mirror reflecting symbols on the display device (par 25).

In reference to claim 6, Kinoshita, JP '612 and JP '243 disclose the invention substantially as claimed. JP '243 further teaches that the image is reflected (*inverted*) onto the display device by the concave mirror (par 25).

In reference to claims 7 and 8, Kinoshita, JP '612 and JP '243 disclose the invention substantially as claimed. JP '612 further teaches both a regular bonus game and a big bonus game that are shifted to by turning on an ultraviolet lamp in the gaming cabinet. A special pattern is then visible during play of the bonus game (par 16).

In reference to claim 9, Kinoshita, JP '612 and JP '243 disclose the invention substantially as claimed. JP '612 further teaches that the ultraviolet light is turned on during the bonus game, which may be a lottery (par 16 and par 51).

In reference to claim 10, Kinoshita, JP '612 and JP '243 disclose the invention substantially as claimed. JP '612 further teaches a maximum number of bonus games (*casting lots*) to be played, the odds of winning the lottery and the predetermined pattern to win (par 36-37).

In reference to claim 11, Kinoshita, JP '612 and JP '243 disclose the invention substantially as claimed. JP '612 further teaches that the symbols visible by ultraviolet light are around the peripheral of the rotation reel and are in a blank state when the ultraviolet light is not on (par 17-18).

In reference to claim 13, Kinoshita, JP '612 and JP '243 disclose the invention substantially as claimed. JP '243 further teaches reducing the volume of light to increase visibility of an image (par 80).

**2. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinoshita, JP '612 and JP '243, and further in view of Dickenson et al. (US 5,251,898).**

In reference to claim 12, Kinoshita, JP '612 and JP '243 disclose the invention substantially as claimed, but fail to teach that the reels spin in different directions. Dickenson teaches a gaming apparatus with bi-directional reels in which the reels randomly rotate in different direction (see at least columns 3 and 4). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kinoshita, JP '612 and JP '243 to include the random-direction reels of Dickenson in order to provide game features that increase player interest and enjoyment, as is favorably described in Dickenson (col 1, ln 18-22). The Examiner notes that Dickenson provides a showing that is was known in the art to allow the reels to spin in a bottom-to-top direction, which renders the limitations of claim 12 an obvious matter of aesthetic design choice since it does not change the outcome of the game.

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARCUS D. JONES whose telephone number is (571)270-3773. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5 EST, Alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John M. Hotaling can be reached on 571-272-4437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Marcus D. Jones/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/John M Hotaling II/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art  
Unit 3714